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CASH IN ADVANCE

FIRST YEAR OF THE STATE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Alabama State Chamber of Commerce is a year old and is going forward with its creative work in a manner altogether gratifying to those who assumed the responsibility of establishing it and sponsoring it.

The State Chamber of Commerce has a specific function to perform and is sticking strictly to its mission. It is not a militant agency or opinion, it is innocent of partisan political motives, and its message in no controversy except with those who would keep the rights of Alabamians to seek a higher standard of living and those who question the ability of Alabama to attain a higher standard of living.

To the beginning there were some doubting Thomases. They thought that the Chamber might have political interests to serve. Luckily a State election was held in the first year of the Chamber's life. Members and officers of the Chamber voted on the issue of the Chamber's existence to make to voters on behalf of the Chamber and for the people should vote or what they should think and say. In other words the Chamber has a clean life in the hour of temptation and stuck to its own knitting, which is precisely what it should do in its future. Now every body knows the Chamber is not just what it pretends to be, an organization whose membership is open to all, but one that is devoted to the lowest, the richest and the poorest, working for the well-being of all, the high and the rich and the poor.

The State Chamber in its first year has done a tremendous amount of research to ascertain the present economic status of the commonwealth, the varying needs of the different areas, even the different counties. It has found that it will press even more energetic efforts to bring about the kind of life which will endeavor to ascertain in what manner it can be most helpful to the people of a given county in the matter of developing industries and markets for those products of the soil which are not easily disposed of.

The State Chamber is in accord with and complements the work of all established agencies working for the commonwealth, and it is noted in the case of public utility and public service, it is not monopolistic in its special fields, it is to give economic and social progress to the people of Alabama. It deserves not only the sympathetic but the active support of every sound-minded Alabamian.

THOSE HIDDEN TAXES

The tax bill which the last Congress enacted was good as far as it went, but it didn't go far enough. It repeated or modified former laws which had been a handicap to investment and industry. Public holding the bag with a great variety of hidden taxes which the ordinary citizen pays without realizing that he is paying.

FARMERS URGED TO ADOPT
SOIL BUILDING PRACTICES

P. O. Davis, director of the Alabama Extension Service, Auburn, last week called on Alabama farmers to take advantage of the new 100 percent offer they under the 1935 farm act for put for putting into effect soil-building practices on their farms.

Mr. Davis has called on all county agents and agricultural leaders to select practices needed in the county and to advise the farmers to go about doing these things to earn some of the soil-building payments but also to be available to Alabama farmers under the 100 percent offer.

"The soil-building allowance for Alabama this year is estimated to be \$1,150,000 or around \$600,000 per county," stated Mr. Davis. "I was very much surprised to learn that in 1936 Alabama farmers were only \$189,647, a financial loss of \$211,081. In addition, from all insurances they lost more than that in 1937."

Mr. Davis said he wished to emphasize the fact that farmers by adopting the improved practices, are improving the soil, by which means they are getting paid for doing so. Among the practices for which payments are made, if put into effect before December 31, are: establishing permanent pastures, seeding legumes, summer leavings, winter cover crops, strip cropping, and terracing and reseeded pastures.

Farmers are advised by Mr. Davis to take the time to study the list of things they can do to earn their share of the more than \$1,150,000 in soil-building payments. The ordinary citizen would be surprised to know that he is not getting his share of the money.

As he went to jail in Denver because he was unable to pay a \$100 fine for not paying his taxes, Joseph H. Levee exclaimed: "I can eat several pounds of cheese a day and still pay for it."

THE CONSUMERS DOLLAR

The Seventy-fifth Congress of the United States adjourned without passing any of the bills which were designed to legalize retail price-fixing, or by other means to increase the purchasing power of the dollar. Much of the legislation passed by the late Congress is of doubtful value to the consumer. Much of it bears the earmarks of intent to promote the interests at the expense of

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